

In the claims:

1. (Original) An aerosolization system comprising:
an aerosolization device comprising a chamber adapted to receive a receptacle; and
a receptacle containing a pharmaceutical formulation, the receptacle comprising a wall having a weakened portion that opens when a force is applied,
whereby an opening into the receptacle may be created at the weakened portion before, during, or after insertion of the receptacle into the chamber by applying a force to the receptacle.
2. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the weakened portion comprises a region of the wall altered so as to fracture at a force less than would be necessary without the alteration.
3. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the weakened portion comprises a scored region and/or a portion of the wall having a reduced thickness.
4. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the aerosolization device comprises a force applying member to apply a force to the weakened portion to create the opening in the receptacle.
5. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein the force applying member comprises a moveable portion of the chamber.
6. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 5 wherein the movable portion is a flexible wall.
7. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein the force applying member comprises an opening mechanism slidably moveable within the chamber.
8. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein the opening mechanism comprises a opening member having a blunt tip.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle comprises a capsule.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein the capsule comprises a wall comprising one or more of gelatin, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, polyethyleneglycol-compounded hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and agar.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle contains a powder pharmaceutical formulation.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11 wherein the powder pharmaceutical formulation comprises particles having a mass median diameter less than 10 μm .

13. (Original) A system according to claim 11 wherein the powder pharmaceutical formulation has a moisture content below 5% by weight.

14. (Original) A method of aerosolizing a pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

providing an aerosolization device comprising a chamber;
providing a receptacle containing a pharmaceutical formulation, the receptacle comprising a wall having a weakened portion that opens when a force is applied;
applying a force to the receptacle to create an opening at the weakened portion;

before, during, or after applying the force to the receptacle, inserting the receptacle into the chamber; and

aerosolizing the pharmaceutical formulation in the chamber.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the force is applied by a blunt member.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the force is applied after the receptacle is inserted into the chamber.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein the force is applied by moving a wall of the chamber.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the force is applied by sliding a member within the chamber.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the applied force causes the weakened portion to break at a scored region.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the applied force causes the weakened portion to break at a region of reduced wall thickness.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 14 comprising aerosolizing the pharmaceutical formulation by dispersing the pharmaceutical formulation in an air or gas stream.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the air or gas stream is generated by a user's inhalation.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the air or gas stream is from a source of pressurized gas.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the receptacle comprises a capsule.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the receptacle contains a powder pharmaceutical formulation.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the powder pharmaceutical formulation comprises particles having a mass median diameter less than 10 μm .

27. (Previously presented) A receptacle for use in an aerosolization device comprising a chamber adapted to receive the receptacle, the receptacle comprising:

a wall having a weakened portion that opens when a force is applied; and
an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation within the wall,
whereby an opening may be created at the weakened portion before,
during, or after insertion of the receptacle into the chamber by applying a force to the receptacle.

28. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 27 wherein the weakened portion comprises a region of the wall altered so as to fracture at a force less than would be necessary without the alteration.

29. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 27 wherein the weakened portion comprises a scored region and/or a portion of the wall having a reduced thickness.

30. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 27 wherein the weakened portion is opened when a blunt force is applied.

31. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 27 wherein the receptacle is a capsule.

32. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 31 wherein the capsule comprises a wall comprising one or more of gelatin, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, polyethyleneglycol-compounded hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and agar.

33. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 27 wherein the receptacle contains a powder pharmaceutical formulation.

34. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 33 wherein the powder pharmaceutical formulation comprises particles having a mass median diameter less than 10 μm .

35. (Original) A receptacle according to claim 33 wherein the powder pharmaceutical formulation has a moisture content below 5% by weight.

36. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle is moveable within the chamber to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein the receptacle is moveable within the chamber to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation.